

*E 1 cont'd*

Claim 90 **(Twice Amended)** A method for determining the presence of a mRNA in a comprising incubating the sample with the ribonuclease of claim 74 and an oligomeric compound comprising at least twelve ribofuranosyl nucleoside subunits in a sequence which is specifically hybridizable with said mRNA, the presence of one or more degradation products of said mRNA following said incubation being indicative of the presence of said mRNA in said sample.

*E 2*

Claim 91 **(Amended)** A method for diagnosing an aberrant state in an organism associated with a protein encoded by a mRNA, said method comprising incubating a sample from said organism with the ribonuclease of claim 74 and an oligomeric compound comprising at least twelve ribofuranosyl nucleoside subunits in a sequence which is specifically hybridizable with said mRNA, the presence of one or more degradation products of said mRNA following said incubation being diagnostic of the aberrant state in the organism.

#### REMARKS

Claims 43-46 and 68-105, all the pending claims, are subject to a restriction requirement.<sup>1</sup>

Claims 89-91 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 89-91 can be found throughout the application as originally filed and, in particular, on pages 12-16, 26-27, 89-92, and in the claims as originally filed.

The Office Action states that certain claims were renumbered since "no claims 94-97 were filed in the communication filed 6/26/00 [Preliminary Amendment mailed June 23, 2000]." However, as discussed with the Examiner during a telephone conference on October 15, 2002, claims 94-97 are found on page 7 of the

<sup>1</sup> Although the Office Action set forth that "[c]laims 43-46, 68-82, and 89-101 is/are pending . . .", Applicants note that the "Office Action Summary" omits several claims filed in a Preliminary Amendment mailed to the Patent Office June 23, 2000.